



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phoenix Children's Hospital offers program to help parents monitor and prevent development problems from infancy into childhood

PHOENIX, Ariz. (Jan. 30, 2006) – Premature babies have very special and fragile beginnings and often develop severe problems. They require more care and observation in specialized areas. The Neuro-Development Evaluation Program (NDEP) at Phoenix Children's Hospital is working with children who were born prematurely or needed intensive care as a newborn to closely monitor their developmental process during the first few years of life. Many important skills are acquired at this time including communication and language leading to reading, complicated use of their hands, body balance and strength needed for walking, and social and personal attributes such as self identity and self control.

By monitoring with periodic evaluations and active parental teaching, the team at the NDEP can recognize developmental concerns and provide the appropriate support services. A team of specialists in the fields of neurology, psychology, occupational therapy, audiology, speech and language, and nutrition work to identify any possible developmental problems and make appropriate support services available. Evaluations are planned 4 weeks post discharge and include contact until the child is 6 years old. Their goal is to help parents maximize each child's potential. For more information please contact Toni Johnson at (602) 546-0876.

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's leader in pediatric care and is one of the 10 largest free-standing children's hospitals in the nation.. The most comprehensive array of pediatric specialists in the State practice at this one organization. The outstanding clinical expertise, as well as high patient volume, and an unwavering commitment to caring only for children, all contribute to Children's leadership position. For information about Phoenix Children's, visit the Hospital's award-winning website at www.phoenixchildrens.com.